

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of one or more compounds selected from compatible solutes~~ A method for inhibiting the release of ceramides, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof a compatible solute.
2. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of one or more compounds selected from compatible solutes~~ A method for the prophylaxis and protection of human skin against premature skin aging, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof a compatible solute ageing.
3. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of one or more compounds selected from compatible solutes according to at least one of the preceding claims~~ A method for the prophylaxis and protection of human skin against wrinkling, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof a compatible solute.
4. (Currently Amended) Use A method according to Claim 1, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the release of ceramides is induced by free radicals or UV light.
5. (Currently Amended) Use A method according to Claim 1, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ inhibiting the release of ceramides prevents the expression of matrix metalloproteinases.
6. (Currently Amended) Use A method according to Claim 1, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ increased degradation of collagen fibers ~~fibres~~ of the skin is avoided.
7. (Currently Amended) Use A method according to Claim 1, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the inhibiting of the release of ceramides prevents the expression of pro-inflammatory proteins.
8. (Currently Amended) Use A method according to Claim 7, wherein ~~4;~~

~~characterised in that~~ the pro-inflammatory protein is the ICAM-1 gene.

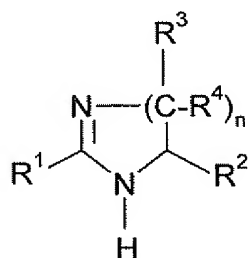
9. (Currently Amended) Use A method according to Claim 1, wherein
~~characterised in that~~ inhibiting the release of ceramides prevents the formation of reactive
oxygen species.

10. (Currently Amended) Use A method according to Claim 1, wherein
~~characterised in that~~ the release of ceramides is inhibited in people with photodermatoses.

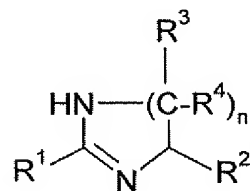
11. (Currently Amended) Use A method according to Claim 10, wherein
~~1, characterised in that~~ the photodermatoses is ~~are selected from~~ polymorphic
photodermatosis, lupus erythematoses or ~~and~~ light urticaria.

12. (Currently Amended) Use A method according to Claim 1, wherein
~~characterised in that~~ the compatible solutes are in the form of a cosmetic, dermatological or
pharmaceutical composition.

13. (Currently Amended) Use A method according to Claim 1, wherein
~~characterised in that~~ the compatible solutes are of formula Ia or Ib ~~selected from the~~
~~compounds of the formulae Ia and Ib~~



Ia



Ib,

~~the physiologically tolerated salts of the compounds of the formulae Ia and Ib, and the~~

~~stereoisomeric forms of the compounds of the formulae Ia and Ib, where~~
or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof,

R¹ is H or alkyl,
R² is H, COOH, COO-alkyl or CO-NH-R⁵,
R³ and R⁴ are each, independently of one another, H or OH,
n is 1, 2 or 3,
alkyl is an alkyl radical having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and
R⁵ is H, alkyl, an amino acid residue, a dipeptide radical or a tripeptide radical.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~Use according to Claim 13, characterised in that~~
~~the compounds are selected from the compounds of the formulae Ia and Ib selected from the~~
~~compounds~~ A method according to claim 13, wherein the compound of formula Ia or Ib is
(S)-1,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2-methyl-4-pyrimidinecarboxylic acid or and (S,S)-1,4,5,6-tetrahydro-
5-hydroxy-2-methyl-4-pyrimidinecarboxylic acid.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Use~~ A method according to Claim 1, ~~wherein~~
~~characterised in that the proportion of compatible solutes in the a composition administered is~~
~~from 0.001 to 50% by weight, based on the composition as a whole.~~

16. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of compatible solutes for the preparation of~~
~~a composition suitable for the prophylaxis and~~ A method protection of the human skin
against wrinkling, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof a compatible solute.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of compatible solutes for the preparation of~~
~~a composition which are suitable for the prophylaxis and~~ A method protection of the human
skin against premature skin ageing, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof a
compatible solute.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of compatible solutes for the preparation of~~
~~a composition suitable~~ A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of photodermatoses,
comprising administering to a subject in need thereof a compatible solute.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of compatible solutes for the preparation of a composition suitable~~ A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of polymorphic photodermatosis, lupus erythematoses and/or light urticaria, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof a compatible solute.

20. (New) A method according to claim 13, wherein an isolated stereoisomeric form of a compound of formula Ia or Ib is administered.